

more say and that board members are more accountable is more important than ever. Everything possible must be done to keep the rail project on budget to keep the tolls as low as possible.

Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell wrote Representative TOM LATHAM and Representative JOHN MICA in strong support of these changes. I submit Governor McDonnell's letter for the RECORD as well.

Some interested parties have stated that the original 1986 law that established MWAA is a compact between Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia and that any changes to the structure of the board must be approved by all three localities. I want to state clearly that this is not true.

The independent and well-respected Congressional Research Service has told my office that the MWAA statute has been amended twice in 1991 and in 1996, specifically in response to court decisions involving the Board of Review. It is my understanding that neither change required the consent of MD or DC.

The Practitioner's Guide to The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts provides everything else necessary regarding the authority of Congress to enact subsequent legislation that has an effect on approved interstate compacts. Sections of this publication support the claim that Congress remains free to change federal laws, even if those laws have adverse effects on compacts that Congress has specifically consented to.

The relevant sections of the Practitioner's Guide to The Evolving Use and the Changing Role of Interstate Compacts are too long to include here today, but can be found on pages 43–47.

These changes to the MWAA board will improve its function, governance, accountability and transparency and provide greater input for those with a large stake in the successful completion of the Dulles Rail project. Washington Dulles International Airport and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport drive economic growth in northern Virginia and the entire Capital region. The MWAA board must operate successfully to ensure the success of both Dulles International and Reagan National Airports and the Dulles Rail, ensuring tolls on local drivers are kept to a minimum.

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA,
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR,
Richmond, VA, August 8, 2011.

Hon. TOM LATHAM,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JOHN MICA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMEN LATHAM AND MICA: I write you today to respectfully ask for your endorsement and support for changes to the Washington Metropolitan Airports Authority Board of Directors being proposed by Congressman Frank Wolf. As you are aware, MWAA, which was created through an interstate compact between Virginia and D.C., as authorized by Congress, maintains and operates Reagan National Airport and Dulles International Airport pursuant to a lease agreement with the federal government. MWAA is also responsible for maintaining and operating the Dulles Toll Road and the Dulles Greenway and construction of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Extension Project.

These facilities are all located within the Commonwealth of Virginia and have a tremendous impact on our economy and trans-

portation network. All funding for the airports, and the current metrorail to Dulles project, is provided by the Commonwealth or its subdivisions, and the federal government. Despite this fact, as chief executive I have no effective mechanism for effectuating a change or providing oversight when the MWAA Board takes action which may be adverse to the interests of the Commonwealth and its citizens. Neither do the other stakeholders in the District of Columbia, Maryland or the federal government. Each appointee to the MWAA Board serves for a period of six years and remains on the Board until a successor is chosen. Neither the federal statutes, nor the respective jurisdictional statutes enabling the interstate compact provide a mechanism for removing a Board member, since they do not currently serve at the pleasure of the Governor. This lack of oversight essentially allows members of the Board to potentially act in accordance with their own goals and directives for MWAA without consultation with or allegiance to the leaders and taxpayers in the Commonwealth and the other member jurisdictions.

Congressman Wolf is seeking changes to rectify this lack of oversight by providing the Chief Executives of each of the member jurisdictions and the President with greater authority in appointing and removing members to the Board. Specifically, members would serve at the pleasure of the appointing executive, and the appointing executive would be provided the authority to remove a board member at any time with or without cause. Furthermore, as referenced above, all of the facilities under MWAA's control are located within the Commonwealth of Virginia. Currently, however, Virginia only has five of the thirteen seats on the board. As such, the Commonwealth should be granted three additional seats on the MWAA Board, increasing the number of Board members representing Virginia and its interests from five to eight. These changes would provide me and future governors the ability to ensure that MWAA's policies and directives are in accordance with the best interests of Virginia's citizens.

I wholeheartedly support the changes proposed by Congressman Wolf, and, again, I respectfully urge you to do so as well. Should you have any questions or wish to further discuss this matter, please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Virginia Secretary of Transportation Sean T. Connaughton at your convenience.

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. McDONNELL,
Governor.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND ZIDDE HAMATHEITE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Reverend M. Zidde Hamatheite for his profound dedication to his religion and for sharing his convictions with my community through prayer.

Reverend M. Zidde Hamatheite was born on January 11, 1971 to the late Archbishop M. Zidoneo and Rakal Hamatheite in Brooklyn, New York. He was taught at an early age to respect God and the people of God. It was because of his upbringing that he understood that he would pursue a career in prayer service.

Under the auspices of his Pastor, Rev. Alvin Barnett of West Baptist Church, Reverend Hamatheite learned the ways of the ministry until he turned 25. The Lord led him to accept the challenge as the Pastor of the Gethsemane Baptist Church in December 1995 as a result of his training.

After working in the Department of Education for several years and seeing the desperate need of the young people in this community, Reverend Hamatheite sought to rival against strongholds on the young people. He joined forces with the 73rd Precinct where he serves as Clergy Liaison, Police Chaplain, and Administrator for the Police Explorers Program. He and several members of the church also mentor youth for the Kings County District Attorney's Office in their Youth and Congregation in Partnership Program. Reverend Hamatheite saw the need to teach young men how to be real men so he developed a program that the Lord gave him, entitled, M.O.V.E. (Men of Valor Empowered), working with 12- to 17-year-old young men.

Reverend Hamatheite serves on several boards in my district: he is the Vice President of Bridging the Gap Ministries; first and former President of the Young Pastors, Ministers, and Evangelists Department of the Eastern Baptist Association; and the former Recording Secretary for the Moderator's Department of the Progressive National Baptist Convention.

Reverend Hamatheite now serves as the Pastor of the Wayside Baptist Church, where he was installed on July 18, 2011. Since arriving at Wayside Baptist Church, Reverend Hamatheite has implemented a new Visionary Theme, "Moving from Conformity to Transformation." During his first year as Pastor he established leadership classes for all leaders, reorganized the Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and under his pastorate many have come to give their lives to Christ.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize Reverend Hamatheite for his passion for God's word and the diverse initiatives he has employed as Pastor of Wayside Baptist Church.

RECOGNIZING ROBERT BRUCE CHRISTMAS UPON RECEIVING THE 2011 WASHINGTON COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO AGRICULTURE AWARD

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 17, 2011

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Robert Bruce Christmas for receiving the 2011 Washington County Extension Service Distinguished Service to Agriculture Award. Bruce and his family have dedicated their lives to the field of agriculture, and I am proud to recognize their achievements before the United States Congress.

Bruce was born to a farm family in 1933, becoming the fifth generation of Christmas farmers in the Florida Panhandle that stretches back to 1848. He graduated from Cottdale in 1951, received his associate's degree from Chipola College in 1953, and his bachelor's degree from the University of Florida in 1955. He maintained a thirst for learning by earning a Masters of Animal Nutrition in